

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, and 12-25 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: A thorough search for prior art fails to disclose any reference or references, which taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest, in combination with the other limitations, "a light guide plate located behind the liquid crystal display, the light guide plate having at least one opening through which the symbols on the variable display device are displayed, the light guide plate providing backlighting to the liquid crystal display in regions outside the (at least one) opening" in combination with "an image display assistance/side illumination device/display assistance device being provided lateral to an area between the variable display device and the image display device" in combination with "a rear illumination lamp" configured to illuminate the symbols from behind the symbols.

The closest prior art are Ozaki (US 2001/0031658), Fujii (JP 11-155998), and Hagiwara (US 5,580,055). Ozaki discloses a gaming machine in which a LCD is in front of reels. Fujii discloses side reflectors. Hagiwara teaches illumination behind the reels. However, the combination of the prior art structurally and functionally lacks the means for providing a light guide plate as defined by the specification, remarks and the state of the art in combination with the other features. For at least these reasons, claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 and the claims dependent thereon are allowed over Ozaki, Fujii, and Hagiwara.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDREW KIM whose telephone number is (571)272-1691. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dmitry Suhol can be reached on 571-272-4430. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Examiner, Art Unit 3716

/Dmitry Suhol/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3716